



# MIOsha Fatal Facts

## Falls That Kill

### Don't Let It Happen to You!

Falls accounted for 21 percent of the more than 200 workplace fatalities investigated by MIOsha in the past five years. In construction, the number is even higher at 37 percent of fatalities investigated. Below is a sample of fatal fall accidents that took the lives of Michigan workers.

#### Construction

- A 43-year-old **Carpenter** was working on a ladder that barely reached the roof edge. The base of the ladder slipped away in the ice and snow, causing the employee to fall 8 feet.
- A 33-year-old **Laborer** was working near the edge of a roof. When he pulled on an electrical cord to power a screw gun, he lost his balance and fell off the roof 28 feet to the ground below.
- A 42-year-old **Roofer** was carrying a 90-pound roll of roofing material across a roof. The roof gave way and he fell 15 feet to the floor below.
- A 56-year-old **Laborer** was climbing the corner suspension portion of a scaffold not designed for climbing and fell 8 feet to the ground. The appropriate access ladder was brought to the site the next day.

#### General Industry

- A 57-year-old **Machine Repairman** climbed to a platform to work on a press and was standing on a piece of plywood that had been placed over a conveyor. He fell off the plywood to the floor 15 feet below.
- A 31-year-old **Service Technician** was repairing telephone strand from a 28-foot portable ladder. The ladder hooks were not fully engaged on the wire terminal. He fell off the ladder to the ground.
- A 37-year-old **Warehouse Employee** was operating a platform truck to obtain boxes of material from warehouse racks 15 feet high. The employee fell off the platform to the floor below.
- A 46-year-old **Landscaping Employee** stringing Christmas lights climbed a tree to about 30 feet above the ground. The employee fell from the tree and died 18 days later from multiple injuries.

## Follow these Safety Tips to Protect Yourself

- Use guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or appropriate restraints when exposed to a fall hazard.
- Cover or guard floor holes or openings immediately.
- Construct floor hole covers so they will support two times the weight intended to be put on them. Covers must be secured and color coded or marked with the words "HOLE" or "COVER."
- Survey existing structures to ensure surfaces are safe to walk on. Continually audit as work continues.
- Ensure ladders are appropriate and long enough to do the job. Secure ladders at the top whenever possible. Do not stand on the top two steps.
- Inspect equipment before use and do not use when damaged or defective.
- Follow safety rules and instructions.
- Leave safe guards in place (such as guard rails). If you must remove a safe guard, put it back when the job is completed.
- Conduct a pre-job analysis to determine the safest way to do the job and select the right tools and equipment.
- Look out for co-workers and tell them when you see something unsafe.

## MIOSHA Standards That Apply: [www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards](http://www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards)

### Construction

Part 6, Personal Protective Equipment, Rules 631 thru 635

Part 12, Scaffolds & Scaffold Platforms, Rule 1213

Part 21, Guarding of Walking & Working Surfaces, Rules 2128 & 2131

Part 26, Steel Erection

Part 32, Aerial Work Platforms, Rule 3209(11) & (12)

Part 45, Fall Protection

### General Industry

Part 2, Floor & Wall Openings, Stairways & Skylights

Part 5, Scaffolding, Rule 511

Part 33, Personal Protective Equipment, Rule 3390

Part 53, Tree Trimming & Removal, Rules 5313 & 5331

Part 58, Vehicle Mounted Elevating Platforms, Rule 5832(7)

## Additional Information

**MIOSHA Construction Fact Sheets:** *"Falls-Unprotected Sides, Wall Openings and Floor Holes,"* and *"Steel Erection and Fall Protection"*: [www.michigan.gov/mioshaconstruction](http://www.michigan.gov/mioshaconstruction).

**OSHA Website:** <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/index.html>.

**NIOSH Website:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/>.



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